

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 W
-----001613 261542Z /46

P R 250832Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2183
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4079

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR PINR IS EG
SUBJ: VIEWS OF FORMER CHIEF OF ISRAELI MILITARY DEL IN CAIRO

1. ON MARCH 24 VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER (ELLIOT) MET WITH
IDF COLONEL ELIEZER RIMON, WHO IS A FORMER ISRAELI
DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN
THE CHIEF OF THE ISRAELI MILITARY DELEGATION IN CAIRO.

2. RIMON WAS QUITE ANXIOUS TO RELATE HIS EXPERIENCES
IN CAIRO. HE AND HIS FELLOW DELEGATION MEMBERS WERE
BRACED FOR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING AFTER THE MARCH 11 PLO
RAID INTO ISRAEL AND THE ISRAELI INCURSION INTO LEBANON
A FEW DAYS LATER. HOWEVER, RIMON STATED THAT THE
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EGYPTIANS WERE GENTLEMEN, HAD TREATED THE ISRAELI
DELEGATION CORRECTLY, AND HAD SHOWN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
PERSONAL WARMTH. HE STATED THAT HE WAS ALSO
SURPRISED AT THE LACK OF ANY POPULAR REACTION TO
DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON.

3. RIMON PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT EGYPT AND ISRAEL

COULD CONTINUE PEACE TALKS ON THEIR OWN IF NEED BE.
VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER DID NOT RISE TO THIS
BAIT, BUT ASKED WHETHER RIMON FELT THAT THE EGYPTIAN-
ISRAEL TALKS WERE A SUCCESS OR FAILURE. RIMON
INDICATED THAT IN HIS OPINION "MOST ISRAELIS
WHO COUNT FEEL THAT EVEN IF THE TALKS FAIL NOW, THEY
HAVE ALREADY SUCCEEDED." RIMON'S INTERPRETATION WAS
THAT CERTAIN FORCES FOR PEACE HAD BEEN STARTED, AND
WHILE A PLO RAID, OR ISRAELI COUNTER-ACTION COULD
SLOW, OR TEMPORARILY HALT, THE PEACE PROCESS, INCIDENTS
WOULD NOT CHANGE THE TREND OF EVENTS. HE POINTED TO THE
LACK OF AN EGYPTIAN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT
SITUATION IN LEBANON AS AN EXAMPLE AND INDICATED IT
HAD BROADER APPLICATIONS.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS QUESTIONING THE STABILITY OF THE
EGYPTIAN
GOVERNMENT AND SADAT'S PERSONAL POSITIONS, RIMON
FELT THAT THESE WERE EXAGGERATIONS AND
DID NOT REFLECT SADAT'S TOTAL CONTROL OF
THE SITUATION IN EGYPT.

5. COMMENTS: RIMON'S SOMEWHAT EBULLIENT REMARKS
PROBABLY REFLECT A COMBINATION OF INFLATED SELF-ESTEEM,
HIS FIRST DAY TO RELAX IN SEVERAL MONTHS, AND SEVERAL
GLASSES OF WINE. HIS REMARKS ABOUT EGYPT AND ISRAEL
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CONTINUING PEACE TALKS EVEN WITHOUT THE US SEEMS
TO REFLECT HIS PERSONAL DESIRES SHOULD THE CURRENT
PROCESS COLLAPSE. HIS COMMENTS ON THE STATUS OF THE
PEACE TALKS AND THREATS TO SADAT, HOWEVER, SEEMED TO BE AN
OFFICIAL VIEW. VIETS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, MILITARY PERSONNEL, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-0457
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780324/aaaaauel.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57cf12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3201171
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS OF FORMER CHIEF OF ISRAELI MILITARY DEL IN CAIRO
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, IS, EG, LE, (RIMON, ELIEZER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57cf12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014